SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 24th June, 1876.

POLITICAL.

GENERAL.

The *Rahbar-i Hind* of the 20th June in a long leader calls the attention of Government to the degeneracy into which the military power of Hindustán has fallen since the people were disarmed after the mutiny. Arms through habit had become to them as it were the necessary and natural parts of the body. They feel the loss as much as the tiger or bear when deprived of its claws and teeth. Robbed of the arms which they were wont to wear, they feel life a burden.

Another reason why natives should be allowed to possess arms is that they are at present perfectly defenceless against the attacks of robbers and thieves. Government is mistaken in supposing it has strengthened itself by disarming its own subjects. The state should base its power upon its popularity, which is only won by honest endeavours to provide for the wealth and well-being of the people.

The editor concludes by asking the Government not to suspect the loyalty of the people, and to feel no hesitation in giving them free permission to keep arms.

The [illegible] of the 16th June states that although Parliament discussed the bill regarding the assumption of the title of Empress by Her Majesty the Queen with great freedom and from many stand-points, yet there was one thought well worthy of consideration which occurred to no one.

The Queen in assuming the title of *Shahanshàh* or *Empress* should in justice and courtesy have conferred the title of *shàh* or king on the highest native chiefs of India, such as the Mahárájáhs of Kashmere and Nepaul, and the Nizam of Hadairabad, as well on independent and friendly powers, such as the Amir of Cabul and king of Burma. But being neglected, the two latter have expressed their intention to adopt the titles of shàh and shahansháh respectively. The Queen would act wisely in presenting the former with the title of shàh.

The same paper, adverting to the concourse of the native chiefs from all parts of the country to Simla, remarks that nothing could be a better proof of the hearty attachment of the natives to the English Government than these friendly visits of the rájás to the Viceroy, paid of their own accord and without invitation.

The *Rahbara-i-Hind* of the 17th June in a leading editorial urges upon Government the expediency of establishing a Parliament constituted if not of natives alone, of natives and English in an equal proportion, to manage the affairs of India. The writer argues that the long period of unbroken peace under the British rule, combined with English civilisation and education, has roused the nation from the lethargy into which former misgovernment had plunged it. The mental capacity of the people has thereby so grown that they feel themselves justified in boldly coming forward and offering their services in the administration of the state. If the English would devolve upon the natives this duty which they themselves have so long and so successfully performed, they would relieve themselves of a

great burden which at present sits heavy upon their shoulders. The editor also takes this opportunity to acknowledge the obligations under which India is placed to the English for what they had done towards the improvement of its inhabitants.

The *Vrit Dhára* of the 19th June sneers along with the *Urdu Akhbár* at the clever plan adopted in England to avoid the question of receiving Sir Salar Jang with a salute of 17 guns. He was landed at Dover where there is no artillery.

The *Panjábi Akhbár* of the 17th June says:—"The people of Ajmer hope to be again brought under the jurisdiction of the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces, so that they may be able to institute appeals in the High Court from the orders of the district courts. Under the existing arrangements an appeal lies to the Government of India from the Chief Commissioner, but few people have the courage to resort to such daring measures."

The *Oudh Akhbár* of the 16th June, adverting to the *dárbár* to be held at Delhi on the 15th November next by the Viceroy, suggests that it would add much to the splendour and grandeur of the occasion, were the rejoicings in honour of the Queen's assumption of the title of Empress of India to be then celebrated. Native chiefs from all parts of India might be invited, and oriental ceremonies, calculated to impose upon the native imagination and to strike it with awe and admiration, should be observed. Unless the Government of India follows the Asiatic custom of liberality and generosity, and of bestowing dignities and rewards on the deserving, the people will take little interest in mere rejoicings.

NATIVE STATES.

The *Nizám-ul-Akhbár* of the 12th June notices with regret the rumour that Babú Grish Chunder Rai Bahadur has been made a member of the committee said to have been appointed to administer the Patiala State. His ignorance of the manners and customs of the state is, in the editor's opinion, a most conclusive argument against his appointment.

The writer is entirely against the idea of a committee at all, because he dreads evil consequences. For instance, if one member wish to introduce his favourites into good appointments, and another objects, ill-will must result, and would of course be very injurious to the public interests. If a committee be necessary, let Khalifa Muhammad Hussen alone choose the members. No one should be appointed who is ignorant of Urdú, as in it all the business of the state is conducted.

A correspondent of the *Mufid-i-Am* of the 15th June, alluding to the great abundance of female slaves in Tonk, remarks that slave-trade is no doubt still carried on in Rajputana in an underhand way. It is said that these slaves receive a very cruel and inhuman treatment at the hands of their masters, which often leads them to desert their homes. But woe to those unfortunate runaways who are caught and subjected to the cruelties and ill-treatment of their enraged mistresses.

The *Khair Khwah-i-'Alam* of the 16th June in its columns of correspondence, alluding to the unjust system prevalent in the Jodhpur Courts of acquitting criminals on recommendation, particularly dwells upon the mismanagement of the department placed under Rájá Rao Moti Singh, the *Faujdár*, who is unscrupulous and corrupt. It is further added that the pay of his subordinates is in arrears for the last ten months. The writer instances the case of some *Banjarás* convicted of kidnapping, who were released by the *Faujdár* on payment of the trifling fine of Rs. 200, though they ought to have been most severely punished. Their escape with so slight a punishment can be attributed to bribery alone.

The *Aligarh Institute Gazette* of the 16th June, alluding to the false reports spread by the English newspapers respecting the Haidarabad Government, writes,—"One of these papers observes that the present condition of Haidarabad renders it imperative on the British Government to strengthen the forces stationed at Sikandrabad; another says that disturbances in Haidarabad were never so prevalent as they are now; a third

has the boldness to assert that it was never advisable for Sir Salar Jang to leave the state at a time when so many disturbances were prevailing in the Nizám's government. We think all these vague rumours utterly unfounded, and we are informed on very good authority that the Hadairabad State is as tranquil as ever, and that there is nothing in the state that can give rise to the least particle of fear.

"The Hadairabad government is not like other native governments entirely subservient to the will of one single person, so that Sir Salar Jang's absence can never affect the administration." The editor then goes on to observe that "some of the English newspapers think that Sir Salar Jang has gone to England to get the Berars restored. We cannot say anything on the subject, as it is one on which opinion differs, and as political matters are best known to those concerned."

The article is brought to a close with the remark that the example set by Sir Salar Jang of visiting England and other European countries might be followed with advantage by other native chiefs.

(CABUL AND CENTRAL ASIA.)

The *Oudh Akhbár* of the 18th June, referring to the circumstance that newspapers throughout the world are ringing with the report of Russia's rapid advance towards India, ridicules the idea, and challenges the Russians to come if they can. The Russians are greatly mistaken if they think for a moment that, as they have succeeded in extending their dominions in Central Asia under the pretence of spreading civilization, they will be able to bring Hindustán also under their sway. The 24 *crores* of people in India who are ready "to drop their blood where the English drop their sweat," *i.e.*, are ready to sacrifice their lives for the English, will take up arms themselves, and not only drive back the enemy, but wrest from Russia the various countries already conquered by it, and will restore them to the original possessors. Simultaneously the armies of British India, with the help of Turkey and other

European troops will enter St. Petersburg and drive the enemy out of their own country.

The *Kaiser-i-Hind* of the 20th June reports that thirty thousand men of the Turkman tribe are said to have assembled together at Merv, and resolved to undertake a crusade against the Russians with the help of the Afgháns.

A Pinddadal Khán correspondent of the *Panjábi Akhbár* of the 17th June relates, on the authority of a merchant of Bokhara, that four unreasonable and unjust demands have been lately made by the Russians upon the Sháh of Bokhara on pain of war. The Sháh has been asked to surrender the cities of Sabz and Karchi, to enter into an agreement that no marriages should be celebrated in his dominions without Russian consent, and that no one should be hanged without Russian permission. The Sháh has boldly declined to make these concessions. This policy of interference in religious matters which Russia has begun to adopt has greatly disquieted and enraged the Muhammadans, and the writer would not be surprised if ere long a very furious and bloody war breaks out.

The *Kavi Vachan Sudha* of the 19th June, after briefly noticing the opinions expressed by the leading members of the House of Commons on the Central Asian question at the debate which took place on the 5th of May last, observes :—

"It has become a fashion to taunt those who look upon the advance of Russia upon the Indian frontier with Russophobism; but the progress of the Muscovite in Central Asia has already reached a point when it should no longer be regarded with indifference. When the Russians establish themselves at Merv, it would be in their power to threaten Herát. We are, however, glad to find that Mr. Disraeli seems to pursue a policy of frankness and firmness. In his speech on the Royal Titles Bill he distinctly declared that by assuming the title of the Empress of India, Her Majesty intended to signify that Her Indian Empire shall be maintained.

Already the indifference with which England regards Russia's progress in Turkistan has unsettled the minds of the people of this country, and it is therefore a matter of joy that the Prime Minister has thought fit to let the civilized world know that England means to preserve her mighty and splendid empire in the East."

ADMINISTRATIVE.

GENERAL.

The *Anjuman-i-Hind, Oudh*, of the 10th June republishes an article from the *Karnama* pointing out the utter failure of the scheme adopted by Government of assisting the Judge with assessors in intricate criminal cases. The men elected under the existing arrangements are quite unfit as a rule for the important duties which they are called upon to perform. They are generally men of no culture nor principle, and quite unacquainted with the law; the necessary result is, therefore, that they sit upon the bench listless to what is going on before them in Court, and at the end readily give their assent to the decision of the Judge. Thus the Judge receives no earthly help from these assessors in eliciting any hidden points of the case, which might lead to the conviction of the real criminals. The writer suggests that Government should be very particular in making the elections, so that none but men of real worth and merit and well-read in the law may be nominated.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 17th June, alluding to the neglected and bad state of the Police Department in the Panjáb, states that all manner of crimes are committed at the instigation and abetment of the police. Bribery and corruption are rife among them, so that even in cases of murder no traces of the offenders can be discovered. The paper concludes by suggesting that all such unconscientious and unprincipled men should be turned out of the department, and others more honest and scrupulous substituted in their places.

The *Rahbare-i-Hind* of the 20th June devotes a long editorial to refute an article which lately appeared in the *Indian*

Public Opinion, and in which native doctors in general were taken to task for their unfitness and incapacity. The argument of the *Indian Public Opinion* is that native doctors are ignorant of the English language, and are consequently unable to read and write prescriptions in English.

The *Rahbare-i-Hind* asks how are they to be expected to know what they were never taught; English never formed a compulsory part of their studies. A knowledge of English is perfectly optional, and those doctors who know it receive an extra allowance. The editor avails himself of the opportunity to ventilate the grievances of the native doctors. He argues that the salary with which these men begin their career after hard study for several years is disgracefully inadequate, and is the chief cause why men of good education and culture do not adopt this profession. He suggests that their pay instead of ranging between Rs. 12 and Rs. 60 as at present should commence with Rs. 30, and rise with gradual increments up to Rs. 100. The dishonest practice which prevails among them of misappropriating and selling Government medicines in their charge may be ascribed to their wretched pay.

RAILWAY AND POST-OFFICE.

A correspondent of the *Rohilkhand Akhbár* of the 14th June charges the Railway Company with neglecting the comfort and convenience of passengers. In the first place carriages are often over-crowded. Often there is no limit to the number of persons thrust into a carriage, so that sometimes they hardly find room to stand and breathe freely. To add to the misfortune of the passengers, this over-crowding is not unfrequently attended with an outbreak of cholera or some such epidemic disease. Does Government wink at this, because the railway belongs to Englishmen? Had, surely, the natives been the owners, it would have been found necessary to demand licenses, and fix the maximum number of passengers for each carriage. These remarks generally hold good for all 3rd-class carriages.

The writer goes on to ask:—"Is travelling by 3rd class also a crime, as it is a crime to be a blackman or native?"

The second grievance is that passengers are kept locked up in their carriages for a great length of time on reaching large stations, and they are thereby subjected to much discomfort from hunger, thirst, &c. Their misery can be imagined rather than described. If the necessity be urged of ensuring the Railway Company from the frauds and tricks of passengers, then the question is whether the Company can make no better arrangement. Increase the number of ticket collectors and the evil would cease to exist.

Other abuses of a minor character are also mentioned. The writer concludes by asking Government to see to this, and interfere in behalf of the poor passengers, and not to leave them to the tender mercy of the Railway authorities.

The *Oudh Akhbár* of the 23rd June directs the attention of Government to the inconvenience experienced by the people of certain native states owing to the want of proper postal arrangements.

The writer suggests that Government should ask those native states in which there is no Postal Department to establish one, and in case of default should do so itself, defraying the expenses from the revenues of those states. With respect to other states, he observes that in some the dishonest practice of opening and reading private letters in the post-office before distributing them has obtained, which should be immediately put a stop to through the interference of Government.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Oudh Akhbár* of the 21st June notices on the authority of the *Indian Daily News* the occurrence of a violent outrage in Dacca. An Englishman of high position while hunting mortally wounded his own elephant-driver with a spear for some reason or other not known. Efforts are said to be made to conceal the offence. The editor remarks that if a few more cases of this kind occur, the belief of

the entire mind in English justice, humanity, and civilization will be entirely shaken.

A correspondent of the *Oudh Akhbár* of the 16th June dwells at great length upon the fearful prevalence of corruption and bribery among the *amla* of the courts in Behár, and its consequent pernicious and ruinous effects upon litigants. The *amla* are said to be so unconscientious, unscrupulous, and unprincipled that they would not hesitate to use any unfair means to cheat a suitor of his last penny.

The efforts of the English officers to suppress the evil are of no avail, because these villains have invented certain peculiar signs and expressions which are quite unintelligible to any but natives. The editor therefore calls upon native district officers to give the matter their serious consideration, and to do their best to root out this abominable practice.

An appeal is also made to the respectable gentlemen of various districts to establish committees for the prosecution of the offenders in the criminal courts.

The *Vakil-i-Hindustán* of the 17th June, adverting to the increasing public debt of India, observes that Government should take speedy and effective measures to lessen it, otherwise the country will begin to find fault with the present adminstration.

A correspondent of the *Albert Gazette* of 16th June writing from Hoshiárpur in the Panjáb censures the ingenious and mean practice adopted by certain pleaders there to evade the provisions of Circular No. 94, dated 11th June, 1873, of the Chief Court, Panjáb. The plan is simply this, that the *vakils* now employ *paid* muharrirs to procure work for them in place of the brokers to whom they used to give a portion of their fees as remuneration.

The *Anwar-ul-Akhbár* of the 20th June notices on the authority of the *Kashful Akhbár*, No. 26, the unbecoming habit of a district officer lately transferred to Khandwa of pelting litigants with stones when they enrage him.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 20th June in its correspondence columns speaks of the great need of having accommodation attached to the Courts at Gonda to shelter litigants from the inclemencies of the weather.

A correspondent of the same paper writing from *Gujaranwala* states that the District Superintendent of Police is trying to discover those men who are accustomed to publish articles in newspapers unfavourable to that department. Perhaps they will be convicted and punished like common criminals.

A correspondent of the *Khair Khwáh Hindustán* of the 17th June directs the attention of the Tahsíldar of Tarantaran to the exaction of illegal octroi duties in that town.

The *Málwá Akhbár* of the 14th June calls in question the justice of the order issued by the Assistant Commissioner, Captain T. B. Mitchell, in Nowganwa, forbidding all native music on any occasion whatever.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

Name.	Date.	
Akhbár, ...	1876. March	30th
Núr-ul-Afzá, ...	May	14th
Ditto, ...	May,	23rd
Ditto, ...	June,	2nd
Anjuman Hind, ...	»	10th
Nasir-ul-Akhbár, ...	»	11th
Nasr-ul-Islám, ...	»	11th
Gwalior Gazette, ...	»	11th
Mawaz Gazette, ...	»	12th
Lawrence Gazette, ...	»	13th
Nizám-ul-Akhbár, ...	»	13th
Rohilkhand Akhbár, ...	»	14th
Mirat-ul-Asam, ...	»	14th
Málvá Akhbár, ...	»	14th
Anjuman Akhbár, ...	»	15th
Murakkai Tehzib, ...	»	15th
Rafiá-i-'Am, ...	»	15th
Miratul Hind, ...	»	15th
Mahb-i-Hindh, ...	»	15th
Almorah Akhbár, ...	»	15th
Karnámah, ...	»	16th
Social Science Congress Gazette, ...	»	16th
Aligarh Institute Gazette, ...	»	16th
Khair Khwáh Alam, ...	»	16th
Oudh Akhbár, ...	»	16th
Anand Lahari, ...	»	16th
Anjuman-i-Panjáb, ...	»	16th
Albert Gazette, ...	»	16th
Jalwá-i-Tár, ...	»	16th
Najm-ul-Akhbár, ...	»	16th
Khair Khwáh-i-Panjáb, ...	»	16th
Khair Khwáh-i-Hind, ...	»	16th
Adib-i-'Alam, ...	»	16th
Lauh-Mahfúz, ...	»	16th
Khair Khwáh-i-Hindustán, ...	»	17th
Panjábi Akhbár, ...	»	17th
Rahbar-i-Hind, ...	»	17th
Vakil-i-Hindustán, ...	»	17th
Tohfah-i-Kashmír, ...	»	17th
Urdu Akhbár, ...	»	17th
Urdú Akhbár (Akola), ...	»	17th
Rohilkhand Akhbár, ...	»	17th
Koh-i-Núr, ...	»	17th
Oudh Akhbár, ...	»	18th
Lamah-i-Nur,...	»	18th
Akmal-ul-Akhbár, ...	»	18th
Dábdabá-i-Sikandari	»	19th
Kavi Vachan Sudha, ...	»	19th
Patyala Akhbár, ...	»	19th
Vrit Dhárá, ...	»	19th
Rahbar-i-Hind, ...	»	20th

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

NAME.	DATE.
	1876.
Sholá-i-Túr, ...	June, 20th
Anwar-ul-Akhbar, ...	,, 20th
Muir Gazette, ...	,, 20th
Sayad-ul-Akhbár, ...	,, 20th
Lawrence Gazette, ...	,, 20th
Matlá-i-Núr, ...	,, 20th
Anjuman-i-Hind, ...	,, 20th
Oudh Akhbár, ...	,, 21st
Ashraf-ul-Akhbár, ...	,, 21st
Shams-ul-Akhbár, ...	,, 21st
Lytton Gazette, ...	,, 21st
Taj-ul-Akhbár, ...	,, 22nd
Núr Afshán, ...	,, 22nd
Oudh Akhbár, ...	,, 23rd

T. W. HOLDERNESS,

Asst. Secy. to Govt., N.-W. Provinces.

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